

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-19, without prejudice, and please add new claims 20-22 as follows:

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20. (New) An inductance component comprising:

a U-shaped magnetic core having first and second magnetic legs and a magnetic gap defined between the first and second magnetic legs;

5 a permanent magnet mounted on an end portion of the first magnetic leg in a vicinity of a closed magnetic circuit which passes through the magnetic gap in the magnetic core, for generating a direct-current biased magnetic field; and  
B1 a coil wound around the second magnetic leg.

21. (New) An inductance component according to claim 20, wherein said permanent magnet is mounted on one of an end surface of the first magnetic leg and a side surface of the first magnetic leg.

22. (New) A transformer comprising the inductance component according to claim 20.

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